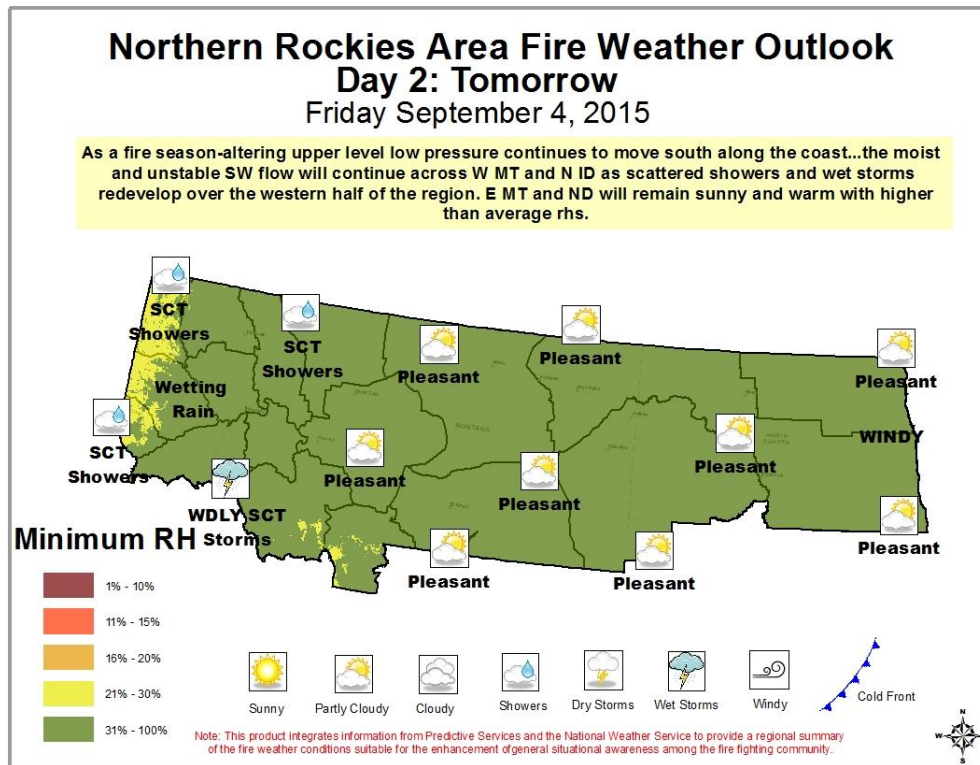


Northern Rockies Fire Behavior Potential Update

September 4, 2015

0900 hours



Today

All of western MT and central ID have or should receive wetting rains through the burning period Friday. High elevation areas along the Continental Divide may see precipitation in the form of snow. Temperatures will be well below normal. There are no winds of concern in the forecast.

Eastern MT and ND will remain sunny but relative humidity is forecast to be greater than 40%.

High relative humidity and/or actual precipitation will significantly dampen fire activity in fuel models that are characterized predominantly by fine cured fuels. The probability of ignition in cured grass fuel models is expected to be less than 50%. Timbered stands are more prominent in the areas that have experienced wetting rains for the last two days. In these fuels expect to see smoldering and creeping with spread rates less than 0.1 mph. These timbered areas do continue to hold heat so isolated and group torching should be expected when fuels are exposed to solar radiation and wind. Resistance to control in timber stands with deep duff or heavy surface fuel loads will continue to be high.

Even though conditions have moderated, continue to keep your situational awareness sharp. Always identify escape routes and safety zones, approach new starts from a safe direction, not from above or out front. Any suppression actions will need to make sure that a good safe anchor point is established.

Outlook

By Saturday the entire GACC will have dropped to low or no significant fire potential. While the atmosphere is predicted to be fairly unstable and lightning is in the forecast, storms will be wet and temperatures will average 20° below normal. Winds will be light and variable except in the vicinity of thunderstorms.